Characters

- JOJO. *A local youth about twelve or thirteen years old. He is very unlike Manny — always smiling, good natured, eager to please. He is skinny and small, wears a colored T-shirt and bell bottom trousers, and goes barefoot.*
- MANNY. *JoJo's older brother; about twenty-one years old; sharp, dark features. He is silent, sensitive, and rarely smiles. He is barefoot and wears a pair of old blue jeans and a T-shirt.*
- BEAR. *Dark, about eighteen or nineteen years old. He is stockily built, thick-necked, has a blunt nose and hair fuzz growing under his lower lip. He has an overall fierce, animal-like appearance. Wears rubber slippers.*
- CHAMP. *His friends call him "Champ" because he is an amateur boxer. He has a muscular physique, and he shows it off by wearing a tight V-necked T-shirt. A cosmopolitan, he is fairly handsome. Has plaster over one eye which is cut. Goes barefoot.*
- CABRAL. *Local Portuguese boy who is the same age as Bear. Wears a bright, new aloha shirt and a pair of baggy pants. Barefoot.*
- JOE. *Haole in casual ivy league clothes, rolled-up shirt sleeves. He is a sailor on short leave. Has crewcut and overall clean-cut appearance.*
- GIRL. *A not too pretty and not too young local woman. She is dressed quite gaudily.*
- THREE HAOLES. *Friends of Joe who are a little drunk but it is hardly noticeable.*

A Honolulu city side-alley, one end of which leads to an unseen maze of tenement houses, while the other leads to an open street. Broken wooden crates and overflowing garbage cans litter the area. The set lighting should indicate night.

Act

[At curtain rise, MANNY *and* JOJO *are discovered seated on crates onstage]*

JOJO

Eh, Manny, how come Pa pick on you all da time?

MANNY

Because he hate my guts and I hate his guts. Aaaa, but no make difference to me. I ain't going stay around hia anyway.

JOJO

Why? Wea you going?

MANNY

I like go up da mainland. I can get one job dere.

JOJO

I can go, too, Manny? I can go wid you?

MANNY

You too young yet. Afta high school you can come up. Maybe we can team up and do someting good, eh, JoJo?

JOJO

Yeah, man. I no feel so good at home wid Pa always squawking, drinking, swearing. I wish I can go wid you right away. Wat we going do together on da mainland?

MANNY

I dono. Open up one garage maybe. You know, get so many cars nowdays, we can make plenty money fixing om up.

JOJO

Terrific idea, man.

MANNY

But befo I go to da mainland, I like smash da old man and pay him back fo all da trouble he cause me.

JOJO

No blame Pa too much. I bet he feel bad enough already. Maybe if he no drink so much...

[Slight pause]

When you going leave? Not right away, eh?

MANNY

Naw. I gotta get some money first. Get plenty jobs fo busboys nowdays. I figure I can get enough money in about two months. Tomorrow I going look fo one job.

JOJO

Tomorrow? Oh, I almost foget — tomorrow Ma's birthday.

MANNY

Wat? You shua?

JOJO

Yeah. I was going tell you, but I wen foget 'til now.

MANNY

Why you neva tell me mo early so I could save some money?

JOJO

I sorry...but I get tirty-eight cents. You no mo nutting?

MANNY

[searching his pocket]:

I get about tree bucks. But wat can we buy fo her wid only tree bucks?

JOJO

And tirty-eight cents.

MANNY

And tirty-eight cents.

JOJO

I was tinking, you know, everytime Ma gotta open da cans wid da hand-kine opener, eh? Humbug, eh? Why we no buy her da crank kine? Dey get one small magnet on da top to lift up da cover when come off. Real nice.

MANNY

How much cost, though?

JOJO

Was only about two buck someting, I tink.

MANNY

Okay. Hia da tree bucks. Tomorrow go buy her da can opener. And no foget give me back da change.

JOJO

Yahoo! I no foget. No worry. Oh, Ma going be real happy. Too bad we no can buy her da real expensive kine, eh? One electric can opener. You just have to press down one lever and da can open by itself.

MANNY

Yeah. How much cost?

JOJO

Twenty someting bucks.

MANNY

Someday we can buy her dat kine stuff. When we get da money.

JOJO

When we come millionaires, eh, Manny?

MANNY

Yeah. When we come millionaires.

JOJO

How long you tink going take us fo be millionaires?

MANNY

About one hundred years.

JOJO

Dat long? Ass too long, Manny. Ten years maybe, eh?

MANNY

Yeah, maybe ten years.

JOJO

Den we can buy one big white house just like da kine da haoles get.

MANNY

[getting excited also]:

One two-story house wid tree bathrooms. One fo you, me, and da old lady.

JOJO

Wat about Pa? Gotta get one fo Pa too.

MANNY

Naw.

JOJO

Come on, Manny, one fo Pa too.

MANNY

Okay. One fo da old man too.

JOJO

I like one big yard, too, Manny. One big, big yard wid nice green grass, so I can lie down and sleep o play football wid my friends. We go get one dog, too, okay? One German police dog. One nice big German police dog. I go call him "Rocky".

MANNY

Easy. You can get all dat. You can get anyting you like.

JOJO

Wat about one swimming pool like da haoles get?

MANNY

Fo wat? You can go Waikiki swim.

JOJO

Yeah, but I like one swimming pool like da haoles too.

MANNY

Okay. You no going get someting fo da old lady?

JOJO

Oh yeah. We go get Ma one nice big white stove. Good idea, eh? And one new washing machine. And...

MANNY

We gotta get her some new clothes, too, right?

JOJO

Yeah. Da real expensive kine.

[Slight pause]

Wat you like, Manny?

MANNY

Me? I like one racer, da small kine fo race in da Indiapolis 500. Aaaa, I not fussy. I like everyting money can buy.

JOJO

When we going be rich, Manny? I no can wait already.

MANNY

No worry. Someday. Someday.

[BEAR *enters and lazily shuffles over to the boys]*

BEAR

Eh, Manny, babe.

MANNY

Hi, Bear.

BEAR

Eeh, JoJo, you skinny baga.

JOJO

[jumps up, hits fighting stance. Jokingly]:

Wat! Wat! Wat you call me? You like fight, o wat?

MANNY

[smiling]:

Beat om up, JoJo.

[JOJO *approaches* BEAR, *who quickly grabs the youngster and applies the bear hug]*

JOJO

Aa-a-a! I give up! I give up!

[BEAR *lets go and* JOJO *tries a bear hug on his rotund friend.* JOJO *grunts loudly as he squeezes* BEAR, *who just laughs at* JOJO' *s futile efforts. Soon* JOJO *gives up, exhausted. In the end both get a good laugh out of it and sit down near* MANNY]

MANNY

[to BEAR]:

Wea Cabral and Champ? Dey not coming, o wat? And wea da bia?

BEAR

Dey said dey was coming. Cabral said he was going bring da bia. I tired tonight. And tonight fo hot. So damn hot and sticky.

[Fans himself with his hand]

MANNY

Why you tink I ask fo da bia? I like one ice-cold one right now... Why you so tired? Wat you did today?

BEAR

I was down da beach wid some of da boys. Almost had one fight today.

MANNY

Who and who?

BEAR

Had dese bunch of haoles, service guys, trying to cause trouble, da bagas.

MANNY

Wat dey wen do?

BEAR

You know Lei and Margie, eh?

[MANNY *nods]*

Dese damn haoles wen whistle and make some wisecracks at da girls. Dey tink dey so terrific. Dey go say, "Honey, you look tired. You need a stiff injection. How about it?" Den one odda baga wen say, "Wanna earn a fast ten bucks?" You know wat he was meaning, eh? Make us blow up. We almost tangle wid dem. All dey looking fo is one wahine to sleep wid. Da damn sharkbaits give da girls V˙D˙ and whose hard luck? Us guys, man! Den da girls give us da disease and us da suckers. Stinking haoles betta not fool around wid our girls. Da over-sexed bagas!

MANNY

Da haoles always making trouble.

BEAR

Dey figure dey so hot. If one haole get smart wid me, I pity him.

[Pounds fist into palm of hand menacingly]

JOJO

But not all da haoles like dat, eh? Get plenty good haoles, I bet.

BEAR

Yeah. Da haole wahines cute, man. Just one night wid one of dem. Eat om up, man!

[CABRAL *and* CHAMP *enter, each toting a carton of beer]*

CHAMP

Howzit!

CABRAL

Hiya, bums!

BEAR

About time, you bagas, I almost die of thirst.

CHAMP

No make me laugh, you get enough beer in you to last you da rest of da year.

MANNY

Cabral, dat one new shirt you wearing?

CABRAL

Yeah, slicka one, eh?

BEAR

No tell me you wen buy om, you miser.

CABRAL

No be stupid. I wen lift om from one store. Real easy.

BEAR

How?

CABRAL

I not going tell you my professional secrets.

BEAR

Wat you mean professional secret? Come on, I like learn someting new every day. Share your knowledge of stealing, I your good friend, eh? Last week when you was hungry I gave you one bowl poi, eh, rememba?

CABRAL

Big deal. I had sore stomach afta dat.

BEAR

Chee! Not my fault you get weak stomach. Rememba da time...

CABRAL

Okay, okay. Enough already. Champ, tell om how I wen scoop dis shirt.

CHAMP

Me and Cabral wen walk in dis clothing store. Was kinda busy dat time, Cabral was wearing only one T-shirt and so he wen pick one shirt off da rack, put om on, wait a little while, and den walk out. Nobody notice nutting.

CABRAL

Pretty smooth, eh? Timing and guts. Ass all you need.

MANNY

You guys wen buy da beer?

BEAR

You tink dese misers going buy anyting?

CABRAL

Fo wat waste money?

BEAR

You see!

CABRAL

We went in dis store dat sell liquor. Champ go talk wid da owner in one far away corner, and I just go pick up one six-pack and walk out when nobody looking.

[BEAR *steals bottle from the six-pack as* CABRAL *goes by, knocks cap off lid of can]*

CHAMP

We did da same ting at one odda store.

BEAR

[drinks, grimaces]:

Ugh-h-h. Why you no steal da cold kine at least?

CABRAL

Hell, be grateful fo wat you get.

CHAMP

You like one, JoJo?

[Offers beer to JOJO]

MANNY

He too young. I no like he drink yet, no good fo him.

BEAR

Chee, just like one fada worrying about his kid.

CHAMP

Not like my old man. Stinking bastard, everytime he drunk and running around wid some broad.

CABRAL

Wat you moaning about? You do da same ting.

CHAMP

So wat? I still young so I get excuse fo doing wat I do.

BEAR

My old man only good fo da toilet bowl. Good-fo-nutting jackass.

MANNY

Da hell wid all of om. Gimme one bia.

[CABRAL *responds to the request. All gulp down their beer]*

BEAR

Eh, Champ, why you get dat plaster ova your eye? Your girl wen hit you when you try kiss her, eh?

CHAMP

No get funny. You know I wen box last night.

BEAR

Oh yeah. Last night was amateur night, eh? You knock out da guy?

CABRAL

Da odda guy wen flatten him out in da third round.

BEAR

No! Bull lie!

[Laughs]

I wish I was dere. Shame, man, shame.

MANNY

Wat kine guy he was?

CABRAL

One haole from da Army.

BEAR

No lie! Oh, mo worse. You wash up if one haole can wipe you out. Hang up your jocks, Champ. Pau, finish already.

CHAMP

Shut up, you dono why I lost. You know why I lost?

BEAR

Why? Why?

CHAMP

Well, shut up and I tell you.

[Stands up to demonstrate]

I had dis haole on the run, see. I give om two left jabs, den one terrific uppercut, one right to da body, and I get om on da ropes, see. Den he start running away. So I step on his feet, give om one elbow in da face and one rabbit punch. Den I all ready fo give my killer right and you know wat he wen do?

BEAR

Wat?

CHAMP

Dat damn haole wen hit me one low blow. Suppose to be one foul.

BEAR

If one foul, how come da ref neva call om?

CHAMP

Wise up, stupid, damn ref was one haole too. Favoritism, favoritism — ass why I lost.

MANNY

Ass why hard.

BEAR

Ass why hard when you good fo nutting.

CHAMP

I see you like one boxing match tonight.

[Rises]

Come on, I take you on.

[Sets himself in boxer's stance]

BEAR

Shua, shua, I challenge you.

[Leans bottle on can]

Arm wrestle, arm wrestle.

[Lies down center stage, raises arm up at elbow]

CHAMP

Okay. Anyting. I wipe you out like dat.

[Snaps fingers]

BEAR

Show me, show me, you weakling. Eh, Cabral, you da judge. Make shua dis baga no cheat.

CHAMP

Watch dis stinka, he going try use his whole fat body fo win.

MANNY

Wait. I sit on Bear, den. Jojo, sit on Champ.

BEAR

Cheee, no fair. I got sore back.

CHAMP

Shut up, crybaby.

CABRAL

In dis corner, dat animal known as da Bear, da one and only flabby piece of piggy from Kalihi. And in dis corner, dat guy we know as Champ, dat muscular, handsome Hercules.

BEAR

Eh, eh, favoritism already.

CABRAL

Shut up, Bear, ass da truth. Okay, you bums, get ready, set...

[BEAR *jumps the start and begins to force* CHAMP' *s arm down]*

Cheating, cheating, I neva say go.

BEAR

[stops]:

Wat you waiting fo?

CABRAL

[says quickly]

Go!

[BEAR *is caught off-guard and mouths inaudible words to* CABRAL, *who, along with* MANNY *and* JOJO, *is laughing at* BEAR' *s handicapped start. The two battle for quite a while until* CHAMP *finally pins* BEAR *down.* BEAR *rolls over on his back, arms outstretched, mouth wide open]*

BEAR

Bia! Bia!

[JOJO *pours the drink down his throat]*

Hey, da taste good. Ono!

CABRAL

Bear, you betta hang up your BBD's.

BEAR

I tired tonight. I wen work hard today. I was busy lifting heavy boxes, ass why I no mo strength.

[Massages arm]

[CABRAL *and* MANNY *open up beers for all and pass them around]*

CHAMP

Excuses, always excuses.

BEAR

So wat. At least I no let one haole beat me.

CHAMP

I told you he wen foul me.

BEAR

Excuses, always excuses.

CABRAL

Ass true, da haoles real dirty. At least I ain't one no good haole. I one good Portagee.

[They all laugh and drink some more]

MANNY

Bear, tell dem wat wen happen at da beach today.

BEAR

I was down da beach today and...

CHAMP

I tawt you was busy lifting heavy boxes.

BEAR

I no can go down afta work? Chee, this baga no give up yet.

CABRAL

So wat was so interesting at da beach?

BEAR

Some service guys wen get smart wid Lei and Margie. Dey go whistle and make dirty kine suggestions. One baga wen say, "Want a hot dog, honey? You supply the bun and I'll bring the wiener."

CHAMP

Ass all? You act da same way wid da haole girls. In fact, you mo dirty and sickening.

BEAR

[trying to ignore CHAMP' *s remark]:*

I was going rap da haole in da face, and da guys was ready to back me up when one cop wen pass by. Jam everyting up. I was all set fo one good fight and...

CHAMP

Too bad da cop came, eh? I bet da haole could chop you down real easy.

BEAR

Chee, you love da haoles, o wat?

CHAMP

No get stupid.

CABRAL

So wat you guys did afta da cop went away? You neva tangle wid dem aftawards?

BEAR

Nah. Da haoles chicken. Dey run away befo we can fight.

JOJO

Why you guys hate da haoles? Get one good haole in my room...real nice guy. Him da president of our class. Nobody hate him. Me, I like him.

BEAR

You too young, JoJo, you no undastand. Dis haole in your room just catching you sucker. You find out about dem when you get mo old. Manny, you no tell your brother nutting, o wat?

MANNY

Wat you like I tell om?

BEAR

Tell om about da no good haoles.

MANNY

[in bored manner]:

JoJo, da haoles no good, no be friends wid dem.

JOJO

But I know kinda plenty good haoles in school.

BEAR

You get one stubborn brada, Manny.

CHAMP

Dey no good, JoJo. On da outside maybe dey look good, but inside dey dirty. Dey hit you below da belt in everyting.

CABRAL

Dey like act bossy...order you around...do dis, do dat. And wat you tink dey doing...just sitting on dea fat rears watching you work your sweat out. Dey let you do all da dirty work, just like my boss. Someday I going broke his mouth.

BEAR

Dey steal your girl, but dey no let you even look at dea girls.

MANNY

And you know how dey treat popolos.

CHAMP

Yeah. Someday, da popes going wipe out all da haoles.

BEAR

You know wat mo betta? Make all da haoles sterile, den dey finish. No mo haoles, no mo trouble.

JOJO

I still tink da haoles okay.

CABRAL

[to JOJO]:

I neva see one funny-kine kid like you.

JOJO

But Manny, if we going to da mainland, we gotta mix around wid da haoles, eh? We gotta be friends wid dem fo make good business in da garage, eh?

CABRAL

Manny, you going to da mainland?

MANNY

Yeah.

BEAR

[lies face down, facing MANNY, *on elbows]:*

Why you neva tell us?

MANNY

Wat fo? Anyway, I only made up my mind tonight.

CHAMP

How come so fast? Wat wen happen?

MANNY

I wen fight wid my old man.

CABRAL

Jesus, you always tangling wid him, eh?

BEAR

Ass nutting. Be like me. When my old man get smart wid me, I whack om one in da face. He no fool wid me now, I just show him dis.

[Holds clenched fist in front of them]

CHAMP

[to MANNY]:

Why you wen fight fo?

MANNY

He was pushing around da old lady, yelling, swearing, making her cry. Just get me so mad I told om to stop.

Den he start pushing me around. JoJo like try help me, so da old man slap him in da face. I was so damn mad, I kick om in da stomach. Da bastard was crying fo air when I wen walk out.

CABRAL

I told you guys about my old lady, eh? If my old man get tough wid her and hit her, she run quick get da butcher knife and wave om in da air. Da old man come scared, man. He know she mean business. Da butcher knife is da real equalizer.

CHAMP

Good your old lady get guts like dat.

BEAR

But, Manny, if you going to da mainland you no can get dates on Saturday nights.

MANNY

Why?

BEAR

Chee, you know you kinda dark, eh, and if da haole girls tink you one pope, dey not going out wid you.

MANNY

No get stupid. I took out some haole girls already.

BEAR

Yeah, but ass da stupid-kine haole wahines. Down hia get plenty suntan-kine guys and da wahines tink you one of dem sun-lovers who toasted on da outside but still white on da inside.

MANNY

You nuts!

BEAR

I not kidding. Sammie told me when he was on da mainland, da haole girls neva like go out wid him.

CHAMP

I no blame dem. He so damn ugly.

CABRAL

No lie, Bear, somebody told me he saw Sammie in L˙ A˙ walking around wid one haole wahine.

[Shoving BEAR' *s head with his foot]*

BEAR

Shua, shua, but she was one whore. Sammie wen get so disgusted he wen start looking fo whores.

CHAMP

Wassa matta, ass the only kine he like. I know Sammie.

MANNY

[to BEAR]:

So I get me one whore every Saturday night o else I go out only wid Aunt Jemimah. Now you happy?

BEAR

No get mad. You hate da world, o wat?

MANNY

Yeah, I sick of everyting. I gotta get off dis rock.

CABRAL

Me too. I figure I going join da army.

BEAR

Dey no like 4-F bagas like you.

CABRAL

Wat you mean, man, they going make me one general.

[Stands up and salutes]

General Cabral. Terrific, eh?

CHAMP

Mo betta I go to da mainland too. Be one pro boxer and knock out all da weaklings.

BEAR

No make me laugh. Dey going be carrying you away in da stretcher every night.

CHAMP

[starts pulling BEAR *to stage right by his legs]:*

You really looking fo trouble tonight, eh? Come on den.

JOJO

Somebody coming.

[They all crouch low near the rubbish cans, looking off stage and waiting. Soon a local girl and JOE *appear hand in hand. The couple do not notice the gang. They stop, embrace, and kiss]*

JOE

Now, that was something.

[Slight pause]

By the way, [...]what're[...] you doing tomorrow night?

GIRL

Why you so nosy for?

JOE

Ha! Honey, you don't have to put on an act with me. How 'bout making the rounds again?

GIRL

Maybe I going be busy tomorrow.

JOE

[moves with her to center]:

Ah, come on, now. I'm a lone-some soul lost in the land of paradise. Give a guy a break. How 'bout it?

GIRL

[after a short while]:

Okay.

JOE

[smiling triumphantly]:

Where do we go from here?

GIRL

I gotta go home.

JOE

Already?

GIRL

Late, you know, and I live kinda far away.

JOE

Your folks waiting for you?

GIRL

No be silly. I living with only my mother and she no care when I come home.

JOE

Is she the understanding type?

GIRL

Maybe. Why?

JOE

Oh, I, ah...just asked.

GIRL

She not going be home tonight.

JOE

No kidding?

GIRL

You like come my house little while?

JOE

Great. But, ah, how 'bout...

[She obliges. MANNY *signals the others and they all creep up on the unsuspecting couple]*

BEAR

Eh, haole, wat you tink you doing?

JOE

Huh?

[JOE *tries to move upstage but is blocked. He looks around at the faces of the boys and then realizes he is carefully being surrounded]*

BEAR

[belligerently]:

You no going answer me? I said, wat you tink you doing?

JOE

Well, just having a little fun — if it's any of your business.

CABRAL

Cocky bastard, eh?

MANNY

He tink he so hot.

CHAMP

Wat you expect from one haole?

JOE

Real tough guys, huh?

CHAMP

Tough enough. You like test us out, o wat?

JOE

[smiles weakly]:

I didn't mean nothing. I was just kidding. Forget it.

CABRAL

Wea you pick her up — on Hotel Street?

GIRL

Eh, watch dat crack, eh. Wat you tink me?

CHAMP

One little old slut.

GIRL

[moves a step toward CHAMP]:

No call me one slut, you punk.

BEAR

[laughing]:

You betta watch out, Champ, o she going beat you up. And no call her one slut; chee, you no mo manners, o wat? She not one slut, she one bitch.

GIRL

Look, ugly, why don't you mind your own business and shut your mout.

[Crosses to BEAR]

BEAR

[rises and retreats]:

Chee, da rough wahine. You figure you can beat me up, o wat? You like fight?

[Jabs at her lightly]

MANNY

Bear, why you no pick on somebody your own size?

BEAR

Wat you mean? She just my size.

[He puts his arms around the girl, who quickly stamps on his foot. BEAR *dances around holding his foot, but then moves toward the* GIRL *with an outstretched arm]*

BEAR

You dirty...

JOE

[stops BEAR]:

Hold it, pal. Don't lose your head.

CABRAL

Yeah, Bear, no [...]bruise[...] her up, he still gotta use her yet.

MANNY

[moving between JOE *and* BEAR]:

Wat you going do to her aftawards? Jump her when you reach one bed?

BEAR

And give da disease to her.

JOE

You sure have some wild ideas. I can see the natives are restless tonight.

CHAMP

Making fun of us, eh?

JOE

No, no, don't take it the wrong way. I'm not looking [...]for[...] trouble. Hey, listen. My name's Joe.

CABRAL

We wen ask fo your name? Wat da hell we care wat your name?

BEAR

Eh, bitch, wat your name?

[GIRL *remains silent]*

Wassa matta, we not good enough fo you? Da haoles betta den us local guys, o wat? You figure you going get good fun wid him, rolling around in da bed?

JOE

Hey, she's a nice kid. Watch what you say to her.

BEAR

You ordering me around? Who you tink you?

CABRAL

He like act bossy, eh.

JOE

Now don't get mad. Listen, I just got into port a couple of days ago, and I'll be leaving in a few days so...

CHAMP

One sailor boy, eh? I hia you guys get one girl in every port.

JOE

[trying to be friendly]:

That's the scuttlebutt; but don't believe it, there's not a bit of truth in it.

MANNY

You tink you one real lover, eh? One real Casanova.

JOE

I bet I could learn a lot from you guys.

CABRAL

Getting mo and mo cocky! You tink you so terrific, eh? You really looking fo trouble, eh?

JOE

No, don't get me wrong. I don't hate you guys. I want to be your friend.

JOJO

[moves between CABRAL *and* CHAMP, *toward* JOE]:

I be your friend.

MANNY

Shut up, JoJo.

JOJO

No be like that, Manny, we go be friends wid him. He look like one good guy.

JOE

Thanks, kid. See, he's got the right idea. Shake, pal.

[Offers his hand to JOJO]

MANNY

[pushes JOJO *aside, moves to* JOE *and shoves him to the right]:*

No bodda us, JoJo, go home.

JOJO

I like stay, I no like go home.

MANNY

Den shut up.

CABRAL

Dis bastard figure he get muscles, o wat, rolling up his sleeve like dat?

[CHAMP *circles around* JOE, *who circles with him and moves more right.* GIRL *sneaks to right of* BEAR]

CHAMP

Yeah.

[To JOE]

You tink you get big body, o wat?

[Flexes his arm]

When you get biceps like dis, you can roll up your sleeve.

BEAR

Us local guys no roll up our sleeves fo show-off like dat.

JOE

I see what you mean. Against local customs, huh? Thanks for telling me.

[To CHAMP]

You sure have a powerful build. I wish I had a muscular body like you.

BEAR

Jealous baga. I bet he wish he was handsome like me too.

MANNY

Shut up, Bear, no joke.

BEAR

Wat you mean joke? I not joking. I serious.

JOE

Well, it's getting pretty late, we have to go. Nice meeting you guys.

CABRAL

Maybe we betta teach him one lesson first, eh, Manny?

MANNY

Yeah.

JOJO

No fight. Bambai we get in trouble.

GIRL

You punks betta watch out. Some of his friends stay down da street. If you make trouble, I going call dem.

BEAR

Eh, bitch, if you no shut up, I going punch your mouth. You like get raped, o wat?

JOE

We'd better go.

[JOE *and* GIRL *move toward exit, but* MANNY *stops them and pushes* JOE *back]*

MANNY

Wea you tink you going, haole?

JOJO

[pleading]:

Let om go, Manny, please.

[MANNY *pushes* JOJO *away.* GIRL *suddenly darts off stage]*

CHAMP

Eh, she running away.

MANNY

[to JOJO]:

Now you see wat you did. Go follow her and see if she getting his friends and come back quick tell us.

JOJO

[hesitantly]:

Yeah, but...

MANNY

No stall. Hurry up.

JOJO

No do nutting, okay?

[Exits]

BEAR

Now, haole, you going get your medicine.

JOE

Hey, this is stupid. I'm not looking for a fight.

CABRAL

Damn yellow bastard.

CHAMP

Let me get my cut first.

[They pile into JOE, *punching and kicking until he slumps to the ground unconscious]*

BEAR

Weak baga.

CHAMP

We go befo somebody come.

CABRAL

Yeah, we had our fun fo da night.

MANNY

I gotta wait fo JoJo.

BEAR

You gotta wait? You crazy, o wat? Wat if da cops come?

CABRAL

[pulls MANNY]:

Come on, Manny, come on.

MANNY

Wat about JoJo?

CHAMP

JoJo not dumb. When he see wat happen he going dig fo home.

CABRAL

Yeah, ass right, Manny, no worry, nutting going happen to him.

[CABRAL *and* CHAMP *exit]*

BEAR

JoJo can take care of himself.

[MANNY *looks back one more time, finally gives in, and goes off stage with the others. There is a slight pause while* JOE *slowly regains consciousness]*

JOJO

[off stage]:

Manny, I dono wea she went.

[JOJO *enters, now breathing hard from what seems to have been a long run. He sees* JOE *on the ground, walks slowly to him, and then bends down to help him]*

JOJO

You okay? I sorry about this.

[JOE *tries to get up, so* JOJO *makes him lean back against a garbage can]*

Sometimes dey dono wat dey doing. Dey gotta fight every time, ass why no good. Hard luck you wen come dis way. If you neva come, dey go fight wid somebody else. Me, I no like dat kine stuff. I like be friend wid everybody... Maybe I can get some medicine fo you.

JOE

[with faint smile and muttering voice]:

I had my medicine already, pal.

[Off stage there is the sound of loud talking. Suddenly a girl's voice says, "There's one of them. Look, he trying to steal something." Several haoles enter with the GIRL. *They move swiftly toward* JOJO, *who, realizing the danger, starts to exit. They catch him, however, and begin pounding him to the ground. They continue to hit him until* JOE *finally stops them]*

JOE

He's just a kid. What's the matter with you guys? Didn't you see he was trying to help me?

FIRST HAOLE

She was the one that pointed him out. It's dark in here. We couldn't see if he was a kid or not.

SECOND HAOLE

How is he?

THIRD HAOLE

Aw, the kid's all right. We didn't hit him that hard.

FIRST HAOLE

Well, let's scram before the cops come.

SECOND HAOLE

Come on, Joe.

[Tries to help JOE *off stage]*

JOE

Let me go. I'm staying.

THIRD HAOLE

You out of your mind? You stay here and you'll have big trouble — up to here.

[Levels hand at his neck]

SECOND HAOLE

Don't be a sucker, Joe.

FIRST HAOLE

Let's get the hell outta here, man. Somebody must've called the cops by now.

[Begins to pace around and looks up the alley]

JOE

I gotta take care of the kid.

THIRD HAOLE

Look, you don't owe the kid nothing. What do you want — a good conduct medal or something?

SECOND HAOLE

If you gotta think of somebody, think of us, we're your buddies. If they catch us, we'll all get the ax.

[Siren sounds softly]

FIRST HAOLE

Dammit, I hear it, you guys — the cops.

[GIRL *exits]*

THIRD HAOLE

Shake a leg, Joe.

FIRST HAOLE

Hurry it up, man. The cops, I tell ya.

SECOND HAOLE

Come on, Joe, come on.

[THIRD HAOLE *is almost pushing* JOE *off, while the other two pull him out of the alley.* JOJO *is still lying on the ground as the siren gets louder and louder]*

Curtain